

WELCOMING REMARKS

Martha Farnsworth Riche, Director, Bureau of the Census

Good morning. Welcome to the Census Bureau's 1996 Annual Research Conference (ARC) and Technology Interchange. I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to our program participants and registrants from other countries. We are pleased to have representatives from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

The Census Bureau held its first research conference in 1985. Since 1985, the Census Bureau has developed a tradition for bringing together experts from various Federal agencies and other organizations, and from different countries, representing the statistical community at its scholarly best. We have grown from 300 registrants to a record 800 two years ago. Our registrations today total 712.

The ARC has become a habit-forming experience for some of you. We hope it will become habit-forming for those of you who are here for the first time. As in previous years, we received many more abstracts than we could accommodate, so it was very difficult to choose the papers for presentation this week. This conference provides a worthwhile opportunity to share with you some of the work of our staff and that of the American Statistical Association/National Science Foundation/Census Bureau Research Fellows. Some are presenting their work or are serving as discussants. For those of you who would like to apply your talents, I recommend the fellowship program.

On Monday and Tuesday, we will hear talks on use of administrative data, race and ethnicity, small area estimation, metadata standards, metadata systems, and government performance and results, to name a few. To benefit from the discussions of these papers, we are leaving enough time for floor discussions. So please participate and ask questions when recognized by the chair.

On Wednesday and Thursday, papers will be presented on automated coding, automated editing, generalized tools and systems, record linkage, electronic data dissemination, and alternatives to traditional survey methods. Also, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday we will have technology demonstrations.

We changed the format of the program this year by moving the Shirley Kallek Memorial Lecture to the first plenary session on Tuesday morning -- giving all of you the opportunity to hear this lecture.

Dr. Zvi Griliches of the Department of Economics at Harvard University will be our guest speaker this year. I hope you can all plan to attend.

The 1996 ARC is now officially open. We are glad that you could join us. We hope that you will experience, learn from, and enjoy the ARC and the Technology Interchange.